

From the National Capital

"I don't like that church; they are too loose; why they have nothing but the Bible." Quite recently a young lady of this city paid this compliment to the Brethren church. She seems to think that in order to govern and purify the church it requires certain rules and regulations outside of the gospel. Does not that imply that God has not perfected his plan, his work? Can Christ be Alpha and Omega and the author and finisher of our faith, if the word of God can not be applied excepting thru certain councils and creeds of men? Is it not very strange that many say just what this young lady said—that we are "too loose" because we "have nothing but the Bible," and another large class will say, "No use to be so strict." One accuses us of being too exacting, too rigid and close, because we hold to the motto, "The Bible, the whole Bible, and nothing but the Bible," while the other contends that we are too lax and loose for the same reason. When will men and women professing godliness learn to know what God's will is? When will they learn that it is our business to simply accept and believe what he says? People are not converted by "explaining" the truth, but by the simple, earnest presentation of it,—*"telling the old, old story,"* not *explaining* it. The church of God never can be purified by obedience to creeds and decisions of men. Is it not strange that thousands of good people will waste their strength by trying to improve on God's revealed plan and will? They seem to say, "God's will is far from being clear and explicit and it is therefore our chief business in life to try to clear up as far as possible what he has, for some cause, left enshrouded with more or less mystery."

I once heard of a certain preacher who undertook to talk some at the close of a sermon delivered by another minister and he prefaced his remarks by saying, "I do not feel that I can *add* anything to what the brother has said, but perhaps I can make some things a *little more plainer*!" That preacher seems to have plenty of relatives. They seem to talk as tho the great purpose of life is to "explain" the truth. God used to send out his servants with his own message, and it was their business to deliver that message and God and the Holy Spirit would look after the results. We need to learn the lesson taught by Paul in Gal. 1:6 12 John had to deliver a message—not explain it—even to those who already had known what it was. I John 2:21. Do we think, like that preacher, that by our wisdom, we can make the message more plain? When men have learned that God does not need their wisdom in order to carry out his plan, they are then in position to be used of him. Then they learn to deal with sin as God does; they then know the difference between God's righteousness and wisdom and love and that of their own. They have the mind of God and can discern the things of the Spirit, no matter by what name they are called.

They can not be deceived like the old gentleman was who refused to let a friend come in his home to "play the fiddle," but on being told that it was a "violin," he gladly admitted him and enjoyed the music. It is a great thing to reach that point where we know the real meaning of I Cor. 1:21 31. If our faith does not depend on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God, we can not be deceived by the craftiness and guile of the old deceiver.

We need the "hidden wisdom" of I Cor. 2:7, then we will be satisfied with God's laws, God's ruling. Until then all our work is a total failure.

W. M. LYON.

315 9th St., S. E.

Among the Churches

Special Notice

The Center Chapel church will be dedicated Sunday, April 14, at 10 A. M. Dedicatory service by J. A. Miller of Ashland. Location, seven miles south west of Roann. The neighboring churches are invited.

WM. H. MILLER.

Communion Notice

The Love Feast and Communion services of the Somerset street Brethren church, Johnstown, Pa., will be held April 21, beginning at 7:30 P. M. All of like precious faith are hereby invited to be present.

E. E. HASKINS.

Accessions for First Quarter

During the first quarter of this year there have been reported thru the columns of the EVANGELIST 551 accessions to the church. Last year for the first quarter there were 515. So you see we are ahead of last year. Let us as preachers and as members seek to make the coming quarter richer in results than the second quarter of last year. Only 211 were reported for that quarter last year.

Members without a genuine change of heart is nothing. And those who do come must be cared for. But numbers are important. The church that is not having added to it such as are being saved, is not doing God's will. There is something the matter with it, or the preacher. That is what we have been sent into the world for,—to save the world. And the first step is to get men and women to accept Christ, then grow up into him in all things.

J. L. GILLIN.

Milford, Ind.

Not having written for the EVANGELIST for some time will endeavor to let you know how the dear Savior is being honored and how the good cause is prospering at this place. Tho we are without a pastor, yet we will not forget to serve Him from whom all blessings come.

On last Thursday evening we enjoyed a beautiful sermon, delivered by Brother Flora of Nappanee. His labors resulted in four accessions, all of whom were young men, except one, she being reclaimed. We then concluded to have him remain and preach on Friday, then four more were converted. Baptismal services then followed, seven being baptized.

We have had a wonderful harvest thro-out the winter in this village. So many of our young men have been made to realize that there is a nobler and higher life to live than that of a sinner. Surely we are reaping the good seed which was sown by Brother Rench.

On last Saturday we had a called business meeting in which the vacancy of trustee, occasioned by

the death of Mr. Troup, was filled. Mr. F. M. Lantz was appointed to fill that place. We also elected sister Hattie Groves as our corresponding secretary because we hadn't any before. We have prayer-meeting every Tuesday evening; have large crowds and a great interest taken. Our Sunday school is increasing very rapidly. We ask the prayers of all God's people. ETHEL TROUP.

Dayton, Ohio

Lord's day afternoon, March 31, Brother Beachler, pastor of the Miamisburg Brethren church, preached for the Brethren a heart searching, soul-uplifting, gospel sermon to a large, appreciative audience, using these words as a text, But now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; and the greatest of these is love. I Cor. 13:13, (R. V.)

Brother Beachler supplied the pulpit in the Conover street church four months. His sermons from first to last were interesting, instructive and edifying. The wrapt attention of the auditors bore witness that they were delivered "in demonstration of the Spirit and of power."

A renewed heart, the Holy Spirit, the word of God, and a holy life, are essential factors in the make up of gospel preachers. May the Brethren church have a full supply of such preachers, and to God be all the glory. S. KIEHL.

Spiritual Gleanings

I spent Sunday, March 31, with the Brethren at Sidney, Ind. Preached three sermons, had good attendance and excellent attention. On Saturday evening two responded to the invitation, a sister from the G. B's., and her husband, who has never made any profession. Two united by letter, making four in all.

This little class is having a hard struggle just now, having no regular pastor, but they are earnest in their work and are getting along very nicely. They have some good members there and they feel encouraged now as they have a chance to get either Brother Fox or Brother Wright to serve them as pastor. With either of these brethren at the helm all will move along.

Our work is moving quietly along. We are not turning the world upside down, but do all we can under the circumstances. Pray that God may still lead us on to more efficient work. Glad for the Nappanee meeting. May Brother Bowman bring scores to Christ in Chicago is my prayer.

D. A. HOPKINS.

History of the Tunkers

In the EVANGELIST No. 11, p. 6, reference is made, by the author, to "Holsinger's History of the Tunkers." It will be understood from that statement that "the first edition of 500 copies will be ready for delivery about the middle of April," which will be about the time or soon after this allusion will reach the readers of our good paper.

I think it not necessary to repeat what stands stated in the place alluded to in relation to the book, but I do feel it to be a duty devolving upon me to call attention to that statement, and to express it as my firm conviction that the work should be in the library of every brother and sister who can possibly obtain it. It is just the work that we have needed for a long time. It required considerable time and a great effort to collect the necessary data; and then it was also requisite to exercise a great deal of forbearance, self-denial and a strong, unyielding determination to complete the important undertaking. To carry on this work he had to be at considerable expense, in various ways, so as to employ all his means; and his condition was such that he had to make a constant use of all his wakeful time and a portion of his resting and sleeping hours. Then, too, his vocal organs were in such a condition that with his very best effort he could scarcely speak so as to be understood. Almost all the time he was so nervous as to be unable to do many things which he would have preferred to do himself.